

Appl. No.: 09/980,192
Group Art Unit: 1651
Applicants' Reply to the Office Action mailed July 16, 2004

In the Claims:

Please cancel claim 17 and amend claims 11 and 19, without prejudice, as shown below in the following complete listing of all claims ever presented. This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of the claims in the instant application:

Claims 1-10 (Canceled).

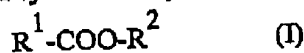
Claim 11 (Currently amended): A reaction medium for fermentation processes comprising:

- (a) a microorganism; and
- (b) a microemulsion, wherein the microemulsion comprises water, an alkyl oligoglycoside emulsifier and an oil phase selected from the group consisting of (i) fatty acid alkyl esters, vegetable triglycerides, and mixtures thereof, and wherein the microemulsion has an average droplet size of from 1 to 100 nm.

Claim 12 (Previously presented): The reaction medium according to claim 11, wherein the microemulsion has an average droplet size of from 10 to 80 nm.

Claim 13 (Previously presented): The reaction medium according to claim 11, wherein the microemulsion has an average droplet size of from 10 to 30 nm.

Claim 14 (Previously presented): The reaction medium according to claim 11, wherein the oil phase comprises a fatty acid methyl ester according to the general formula (I):



wherein R^1 represents a C6-22 alkyl group and R^2 represents a methyl group.

Appl. No.: 09/980,192
Group Art Unit: 1651
Applicants' Reply to the Office Action mailed July 16, 2004

Claim 15 (Previously presented): The reaction medium according to claim 11, wherein the oil phase comprises a fatty acid methyl ester selected from the group consisting of methyl oleate, methyl palmitate, methyl stearate, methyl pelargonate and mixtures thereof.

Claim 16 (Previously presented): The reaction medium according to claim 11, wherein the oil phase comprises an oil selected from the group consisting of coconut oil, sunflower oil, rapeseed oil and mixtures thereof.

Claim 17 (Canceled):

Claim 18 (Previously presented): The reaction medium according to claim 11, wherein the emulsifier is present in an amount of from 10 to 50% by weight based on the microemulsion.

Claim 19 (Currently amended): The reaction medium according to claim 11, wherein the microemulsion comprises water in an amount of from 20 to 90% by weight based on the total weight of the microemulsion.

Claim 20 (Previously presented): The reaction medium according to claim 11, wherein the oil phase is present in an amount of from 10 to 80% by weight based on the microemulsion.

Claim 21 (Withdrawn as non-elected): A fermentation process comprising:

(a) providing a reaction medium comprising a microemulsion, wherein the microemulsion comprises water, an emulsifier and an oil phase selected from the group consisting of fatty acid alkyl esters, vegetable triglycerides, and mixtures thereof, and wherein the microemulsion has an average droplet size of from 1 to 100 nm;

(b) combining the reaction medium and a microorganism; and

Appl. No.: 09/980,192
Group Art Unit: 1651
Applicants' Reply to the Office Action mailed July 16, 2004

(c) conducting fermentation.

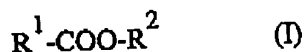
Claim 22 (Withdrawn as non-elected): The fermentation process according to claim 21, wherein the reaction medium further comprises a substrate to be fermented.

Claim 23 (Withdrawn as non-elected): The fermentation process according to claim 21, wherein the oil phase is fermented by the microorganism.

Claim 24 (Withdrawn as non-elected): The fermentation process according to claim 21, wherein the microemulsion has an average droplet size of from 10 to 80 nm.

Claim 25 (Withdrawn as non-elected): The fermentation process according to claim 21, wherein the microemulsion has an average droplet size of from 10 to 30 nm.

Claim 26 (Withdrawn as non-elected): The fermentation process according to claim 21, wherein the oil phase comprises a fatty acid methyl ester according to the general formula (I):



wherein R^1 represents a C6-22 alkyl group and R^2 represents a methyl group.

Claim 27 (Withdrawn as non-elected): The fermentation process according to claim 21, wherein the oil phase comprises a fatty acid methyl ester selected from the group consisting of methyl oleate, methyl palmitate, methyl stearate, methyl pelargonate and mixtures thereof.

Claim 28 (Withdrawn as non-elected): The fermentation process according to claim 21, wherein the oil phase comprises an oil selected from the group consisting of coconut oil, sunflower oil, rapeseed oil and mixtures thereof.

Appl. No.: 09/980,192
Group Art Unit: 1651
Applicants' Reply to the Office Action mailed July 16, 2004

Claim 29 (Withdrawn as non-elected): The fermentation process according to claim 21, wherein the emulsifier comprises an alkyl oligoglycoside.

Claim 30 (Withdrawn as non-elected): The fermentation process according to claim 21, wherein the emulsifier is present in an amount of from 10 to 50% by weight based on the microemulsion.

Claim 31 (Withdrawn as non-elected): The fermentation process according to claim 21, wherein the water is present in an amount of from 20 to 90% by weight based on the microemulsion.

Claim 32 (Withdrawn as non-elected): The fermentation process according to claim 21, wherein the oil phase is present in an amount of from 10 to 80% by weight based on the microemulsion.